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EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: High School Vocational Training

Sponsor(s): Senator Bernadette M. Sanchez and Others

Analyst: Pamela Herman

Date: January 24, 2008

Bill Summary:

SB 170 appropriates funds to the Public Education Department (PED) for the Instructional Support and Vocational Education Division to fund industrial arts, career-technical, and vocational training programs in high schools.

Fiscal Impact:

\$2.0 million is appropriated from the General Fund for expenditure in FY 09. This bill contains a reversion clause.

Issues:

PED states SB 170 would most closely align to the seven career clusters identified in New Mexico to address the need for a highly trained workforce. The career and technical education programs already being implemented across the state include: Engineering, Construction, Manufacturing, Agriculture, and Energy and the Environment.

According to PED, the department would focus funds appropriated in SB 170 to strengthen programs of study in workforce preparation programs that give students an opportunity to earn an industry recognized credential or certificate upon graduation.

PED states that its Career-Technical Workforce Education Bureau will begin collecting data in school year 2008-2009 to gauge performance measures applicable to all students in career technical education (CTE) programs to promote continuous program improvement. Core indicators for success have already been identified, relating to student achievement of challenging academic standards; career and technical skill proficiencies; program completion; high school graduation rates; postsecondary placement rates; and participation in and completion of CTE programs in non-traditional fields.

PED notes that, currently, school districts fund CTE programs aligned with the Career Cluster initiative either through their operating budgets or with funds from the federal *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act*. PED does not provide an estimate of how many students or schools would be benefit from expanded CTE programs with the funds appropriated in SB 170.

The Higher Education Department (HED) observes that the appropriation in SB 170 would support an important component of public education; according to the US Department of Education, virtually every high school student takes at least one CTE course, and one in four



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a single program area. HED also notes that today's CTE courses provide rigorous and challenging academic content, and provide a pathway leading to industry recognized certification, or an associate

Related Bill:

HB 255 *High School Vocational Training* (identical)